GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5688
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
FENCING
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has opposed the fencing along the working boundary;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Indian Government to settle the boundary dispute with Pakistan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a)-(c) The term `working boundary` cannot be applied to any part of the India-Pakistan boundary, including the boundary between the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir and Pakistan.

Our security forces undertake the construction of defensive structures along the International Boundary in Jammu & Kashmir from time to time. The nature and type of structure is based on an evaluation of our security requirements. In this context, Pakistan sponsored infiltration of terrorists into the State of Jammu & Kashmir has to be taken into account. Our security forces will continue to construct such defensive structures as are needed. Pakistan`s objections to the construction of any kind of defensive structures are untenable and have been rejected by us.

The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation by Pakistan. Under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, which are the cornerstones of India Pakistan relations, both countries are committed to resolving all outstanding issues peacefully through direct bilateral discussions.